REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Circular No. D. 400-7, dated Bangalore, 15th January 1909.

To—The Deputy Commissioners of Districts.

The following circular based on the instruction issued with the Dewan's Memo, Camp No. D. 36, dated 12th December 1891, for the selection and management of the Village Relief Works is issued to the Deputy Commissioners of Districts for information and guidance:—

1. In selecting the works for execution, care should be taken not to crowd them together too near each other, nor should any work be more than four or five miles from any village for the inhabitants of which it is intended to provide. The object being to find work for the poorer agriculturists, the Madigars, the Holeyars and landless classes, while enabling them to continue to reside in their villages, too much attention cannot be paid to the proper selection of the works.

2. If on the same work several villagers are employed, the work may be assigned in blocks one for each village and the patel of that village be made to look to exacting proper work upon that block.

3. *The Amani system.*—The work should be entrusted to the patel of the village. Where necessary or desirable, the patel of neighbouring village in which no work may be going on may be associated with him. In some cases it may be advantageous to associate with the patel of the village two leading raiyats or Buddhivants in the charge of the work. In some cases the shanbhog may with advantage be in joint charge with the patel. Even when all this is done the patel in whose village the work is, should be the party immediately responsible for its proper execution and for the proper payment of wages.

(*b*) The work should be on the task system, though the quantity of task must vary from time to time according to the condition of the people, etc. The patel should be responsible that proper work is done for the wages paid.

(*c*) A nominal list should be prepared with the help of the shanbhog and against each name a cross should be marked for each day's work done and paid for.

(*d*) The wages paid shall be such as will be fair and reasonable, having regard to the prevailing price and the wages table in the Famine Code making due allowance for the fact that at present no separate provision is made for the subsistance of the dependants of the labourers.

4. *Contract system.*—Where it is more convenient, the contract system may be adopted, provided:—

(*a*) The patel is the contractor himself, and

(*b*) he undertakes to employ the poorer villagers, and pays them promptly and at equitable rates approved by the Amildar, and where feasible in kind or rather partly in kind and partly in cash, and

(*c*) where possible respectable inhabitants may be entrusted with the contracts or selected to help in the supervision and proper management of the works.

5. *Supervising agency.*—The shanbhog (not when in joint charge of the work) should go round all the works within his firkha and give every assistance possible to the patel in charge. He should help the patel in making the weekly jarib and the payment pattis The payments may be made weekly on the day preceding the sante day, unless where daily payments are considered necessary.

(*b*) The shekdar should regularly inspect all works in his hobli at least once in every week and bring to the notice of the Amildar irregularities, if any, in execution or payment by means of weekly diaries.

(*c*) Assistant shekdars should be entertained whenever work becomes heavy to assist shekdars in supervision of these works and administering relief measures generally. They may either be employed in subordination to the shekdar or be assigned independent charge of a part of the Hobli.

(*d*) The Amildar must constantly move about and will be held responsible for the success of the system.

6. Complete discretion is vested in the Deputy Commissioners as regards the details of carrying out the system of village relief as above. Its success will depend upon the energy, tact and judgment they bring to bear upon it. Their object should be to afford the maximum amount of relief and at the same time secure a work of undoubted local utility of the prescribed standard, regarding the details of which standard full instructions should be issued by the Deputy Commissioners. Reference should be made in the weekly statements of progress to the success with which these instructions have been carried out.

A. RANGASWAMI IYENGAR,
Revenue Commissioner.